



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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### INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

**Docket:** **DCAB 2000-05:** Interpretive Opinion regarding the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 72 (1999 Edition) – request to allow the use of this code as an option for HRS 103-50 projects. Does the NFPA 72 (1999 Edition), specifically Chapter 4, Notification Appliances for Fire Alarm Systems provide for equal or greater access in terms of accessibility as required by current ADAAG?

**Summary:** It is expected that the revised ADAAG and ANSI 117.1 will adopt visible signaling performance and prescriptive requirement as specified in NFPA 72's Chapter 4, for consistency with model codes such as NFPA 72. Through coordination with the NFPA and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which were represented on the advisory committee, the proposed criteria are virtually identical to updated requirements in the NFPA 72 (1996 Edition), and the ICC/ANSI A117.1 standards. Providing "equivalent facilitation", and in some cases superior requirements to the original ADAAG, NFPA 72 (1999), photosensitivity of people with epilepsy is better addressed in NFPA's synchronization requirements, which is addressed by ADAAG's intensity and pulse rate requirements. Engineers would prefer the option to use the NFPA 72 (1999) since it is the new standard at the national level. There are no scoping provisions in NFPA 72 (1999).

**Ruling:** For buildings or facilities subject to HRS § 103-50,

#### **ADAAG 4.1.3(14) Emergency Warning Systems**

NFPA 72 (1999 Edition) provides "equivalent facilitation", and in some cases superior requirements to the original ADAAG. Chapter 4, Notification Appliances for Fire Alarm Systems is expected to be adopted into the revised ADAAG and ANSI 117.1 for consistency with model codes such as NFPA 72. There are no scoping provisions in NFPA 72 (1999).

Therefore where emergency warning systems are provided, they shall include both audible alarms and visual alarms complying with ADAAG's *scoping section* 4.28.1, **and** shall comply with **either** ADAAG's *technical sections* 4.28.2 Audible Alarms and 4.28.3 Visual Alarms *or* NFPA 72's (1999 Edition) Chapter 4, Notification Appliances for Fire Alarm Systems.

[Rul: 02/01] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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